

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to claims 13, 24 and 26 because of informalities. Specifically, the Examiner states “allocated with each one of a” should be change to – allocated with one of a --. Applicants have amended the claims in accordance with the Examiner’s comments.

Claims 13, 18, 20, and 23-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Swayze (US Patent NO. 6,519,303). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Swayze (US Patent No. 6,519,003) discloses that the display member and the function switches 140, 142 and 144 are all provided on the same surface so as to be very close to each other, and the display member displays only functions allocated to the respective function switches. Since the display member is provided near the function switches, the display of only the functions on the display member makes it possible for a user to understand the allocation of the functions to the respective function switches.

In contrast thereto, the operation apparatus of the present invention provides the first function switch and the second function switch on the first surface and the second surface which are mutually separate surfaces to make it easy to operate them. In such an arrangement, the display of only the functions on the display member makes it difficult for a user to understand the allocation of the functions to the respective function switches. Thus, the operation apparatus of the present invention displays on the display member the name of each function switch and the function allocated to each function switch to make it easy for the user to understand the allocation of the functions to the first and second function switches.

As described above, Swayze does not disclose or suggest the feature of the present invention, and therefore the present invention is not anticipated by Swayze under 35 U.S.C. 102. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Applicants have added new claims 28-31 in order to further claim the features of the disclosed invention. Applicants submit claims 28-31 are patentable over the references of record.

In view of the above, all of the claims in this case are believed to be in condition for allowance, notice of which is respectfully urged.

Respectfully submitted,

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL, LLP

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By: / Marc A. Rossi/
Marc A. Rossi
Registration No. 31,923

Correspondence Address:

ROSSI, KIMMS & McDOWELL, LLP
20609 Gordon Park Square, Suite 150
Ashburn, VA 20147
(703) 726-6020 (Telephone)
(212) 726-6024 (Facsimile)